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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:  
Bernd GRONER et al.

Confirmation No. 4601

Appl. No.: 09/596,774

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filing Date: June 19, 2000

Examiner: Karen A. Canella

For: BIFUNCTIONAL PROTEIN, PREPARATION AND USE

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the office action of February 26, 2004. A response is due March 26, 2004. While no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 08-1641.

Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.